

Operational Contract Support in Afghanistan

A Battalion Task Force Commander's
Perspective OEF VII & ISAF IV (2006)

By

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Commander, Task Force "Warrior"

ISAF Regional Commands

RC North

Kunduz

RC West

Herat

RC East

Bagram

RC Capital

Kabul

RC South

Kandahar



Environment

- ***Landlocked, dominated by Hindu Kush Mountains***
 - ***Approximately the size of Texas***
 - ***Elevation ranges from 2000 ft to 21,000 ft above sea level***
 - ***12% of the land is arable***
 - ***Immature road network...1 major paved highway (12,300 kms of paved road)***
 - ***Some connecting roads are paved***
 - ***Shares Iran a border of 936 km with Iran and 2,430 km with Pakistan***
- ***Climate: arid to semiarid; cold winters and hot summers***

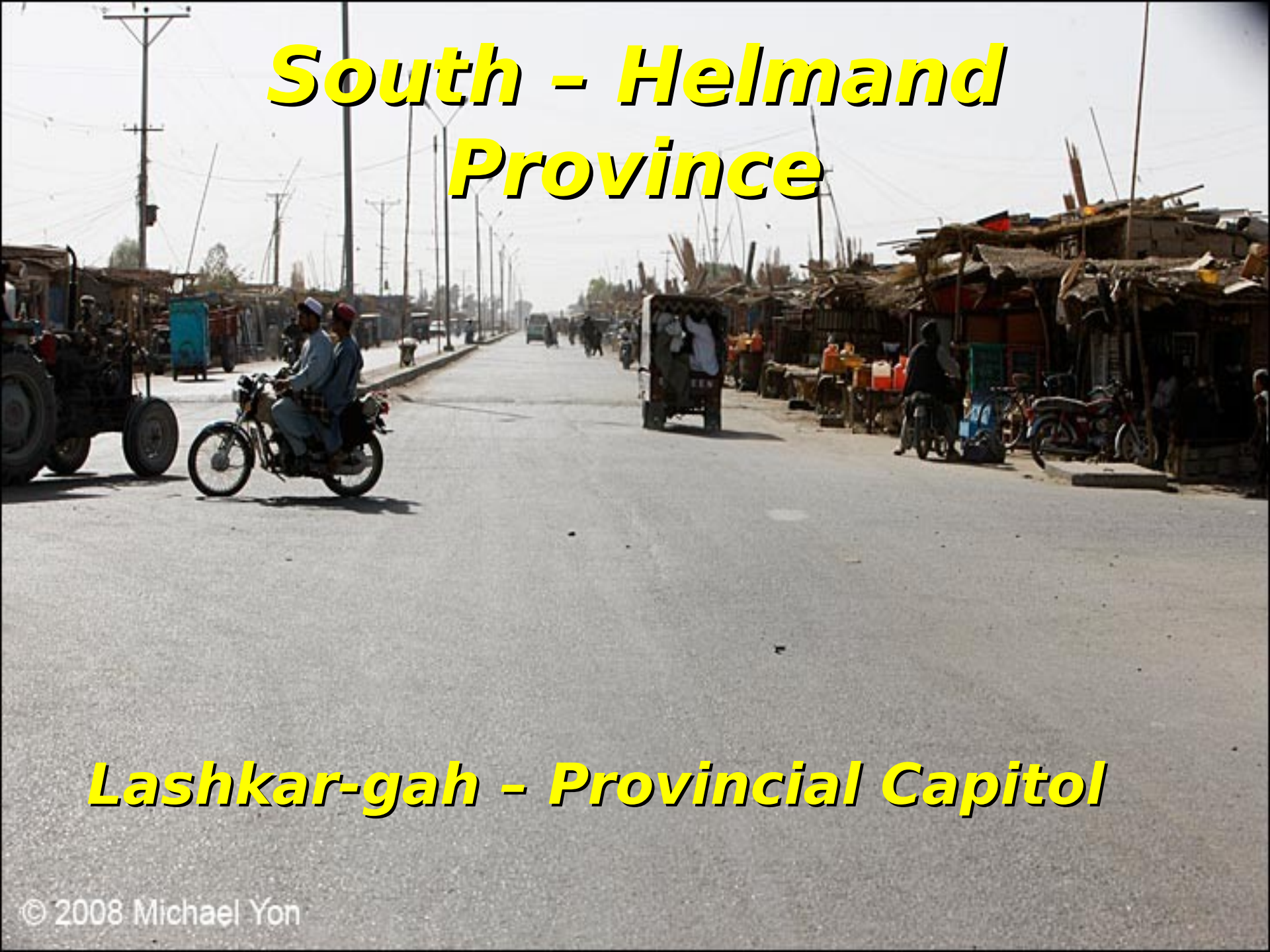
Population

- ***Multi-ethnic, but majority Pashtun (42%)***
 - ***32 million***
 - ***Median Age = 17.6 years (44% are the ages 1-14)***
 - ***Life expectancy = 44***
 - ***80% Sunni Muslim, 19% Shia Muslim***
 - ***Literacy (Age 15 that can read/write) = 28%***
 - ***South and southeast = 11%***
- ***Agrarian Society***
 - ***80% of the population live in remote villages***
 - ***80% of employment is in the agricultural sector***
- ***Key Urban Centers***
 - ***Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-Sharif***

East - Nangahar Province

Kabul River Valley

South - Helmand Province



Lashkar-gah - Provincial Capitol

South - Helmand, Kandahar



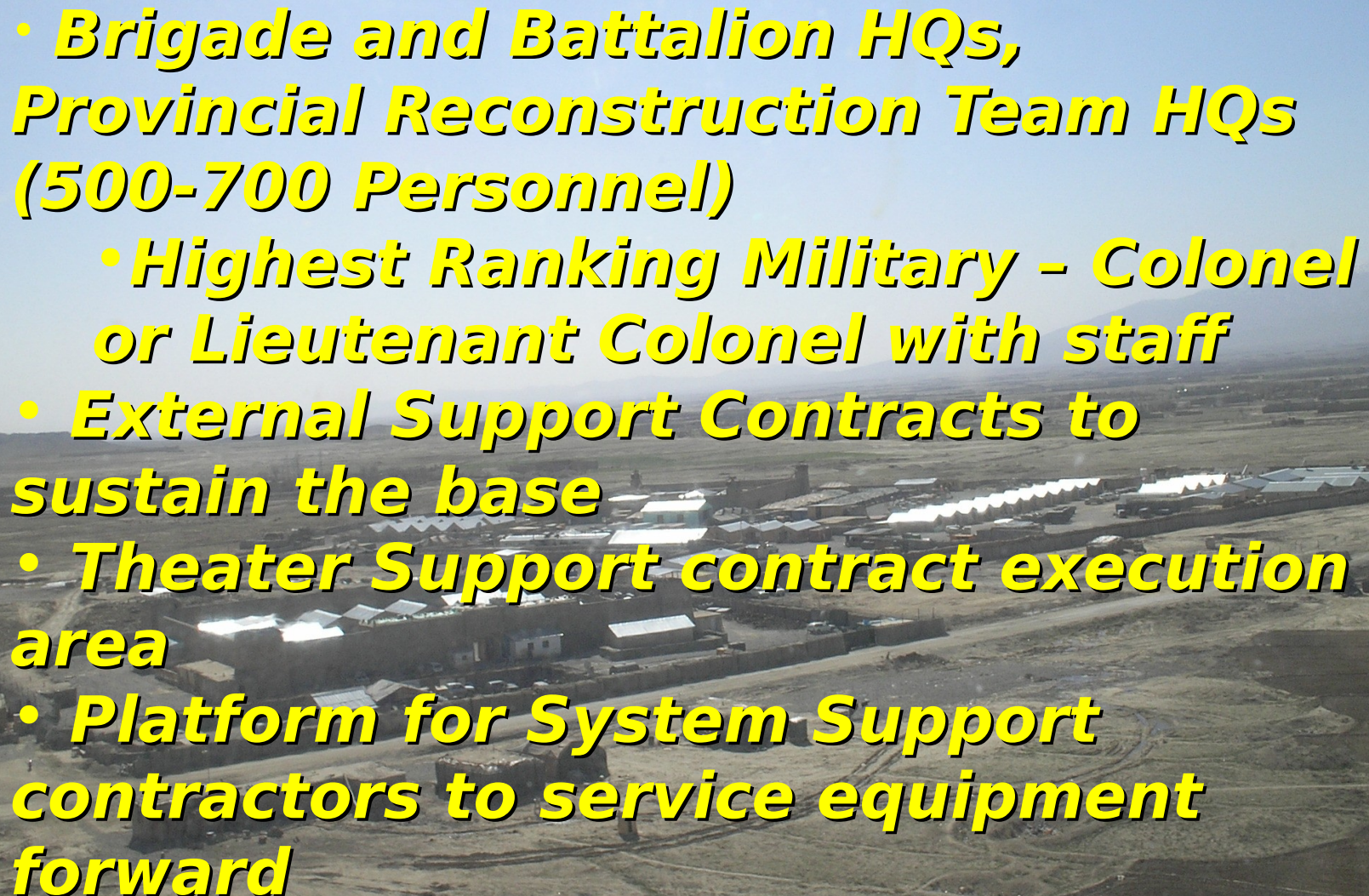
South & West - Helmand, Kanadahar, Farah



Theater POEs

- ***Bagram, Kabul, Kandahar (for the US Mil)***
 - ***To lesser extent:***
 - ***Jalalabad & Salerno in the east***
 - ***Bastion in the south***
 - ***Herat & Shindand in the west***
- ***Large bases (10k-20k US Mil and civilians)***
- ***Access to intra and inter-theater lift (both Military and Civilian)***
- ***Senior Military Officer: 2-3 star General***
 - ***Supporting robust staff of contracting officers and a finance office***
- ***System Support contracts prevalent***
 - ***Major weapons systems, aircraft, vehicles***
- ***External Support contracts run base operations***
 - ***HQs operations for both external support and theater support contracts***

Forward Operating Base (FOB) - Gardez

- ***Brigade and Battalion HQs,
Provincial Reconstruction Team HQs
(500-700 Personnel)***
 - ***Highest Ranking Military - Colonel
or Lieutenant Colonel with staff***
 - ***External Support Contracts to
sustain the base***
 - ***Theater Support contract execution
area***
 - ***Platform for System Support
contractors to service equipment
forward***
- 
- An aerial photograph of a Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Gardez. The base is situated in a dry, desert-like environment with sparse vegetation. It features a variety of structures, including several large, white, peaked tents, smaller buildings with flat roofs, and numerous military vehicles and equipment scattered throughout the site. The base is surrounded by a flat, open landscape with some distant hills visible on the horizon under a clear sky.

FOB - Types of Activities

- ***Theater Support Contracts***
 - ***Intelligence collection***
 - ***Base security***
 - ***Class VI (AAFES)***
 - ***Police trainers (DYNCORP, Blackwater)***
 - ***Governance & Development Advisors and Mentors***
 - ***Corps of Engineer Base Construction Contracts***
- ***External Support Contracts***
 - ***Interpreters***
 - ***LOGCAP: Dining Facility, base operations technicians (electricians, plumbers, etc)***
- ***System Support Contracts***
 - ***Base of operations for repair/diagnostic tests forward***
 - ***New Equipment fielding forward***



Combat Outpost - Baylough

- ***Senior military commander: Captain***
 - ***no staff***
- ***External and Theater Support Contracts***
 - ***Life Support Comfort Services***
 - ***Internet***
 - ***Shower Trailers***
 - ***Base for External Support Contractors to repair equipment (Plumbers, Electricians)***
 - ***Base Security, Intelligence collection (sensor operators)***

Theater Support Contracts

- ***Critical to our mission***
- ***Must be Responsive to commander's needs***
- ***Must be flexible***
- ***Success = 2-way Communication***

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***Afghanistan is remote and
conditions are austere !!***



***This is a NATO Alliance-led
operation...not a US-led Coalition
- Differences are significant***



QUESTIONS?

